



City of Cincinnati

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

GREATER CINCINNATI WATER WORKS ADVISES CUSTOMERS TO PROTECT PIPES FROM FREEZING

During this holiday period, with frigid temperatures predicted, Greater Cincinnati Water Works is urging customers to take practical measures to prevent frozen water pipes in their homes.

Pipes that run through unheated areas or against exterior walls are most susceptible to freezing. If the pipes are under a kitchen or bathroom sink, keeping the cabinet doors open to allow more home heat to reach the pipes may also help. You may also avoid frozen pipes by leaving a steady stream of water (about the width of pencil lead) flowing from faucets.

If pipes freeze despite these precautions, customers should make sure they know where their master water shutoff is before attempting to thaw pipes, because the pipe may already be broken but not leaking because the water is frozen. Knowing where your shutoff is will allow you to turn the water off if you develop a leak.

A hair dryer with a low heat setting is the easiest and safest tool to use to thaw frozen pipes. A heat lamp or electric lamp is also acceptable.

First open the faucet. Then use the hair dryer to wave warm air back and forth along the pipe.

A torch with an open flame should never be used to thaw pipes. It is a fire hazard and can further damage pipes and soldered joints.

It is best to insulate unheated areas or wrap water pipes before very cold weather arrives. Disconnecting and draining outdoor hoses is also important to prevent a frozen pipe or faucet.

"We want our customers to enjoy their holidays. Everyone has more than enough to do at this time of year without having to thaw frozen pipes," said David Rager, Director, Greater Cincinnati Water Works.

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